number of bad crop years. This facility is however, to be extended on the merits of each case.

(ii) Interest on short-term loan payable by small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount.

(iii) A short-term loan of all affected farmers should be converted into medium term loan having repayment period of 3-5 years and the banks should charge simple rate of interest on converted loan accounts.

(iv) In the case gold loans, the ornaments pledged should be auctioned only as a last resort and that too after having the approval of the higher officials.

(v) The banks should extend loans for allied activities *i.e.* dairy, poultry to supplement the income of the affected farmers.

(vi) The consumption loan facility upto Rs. 500 should be given to affected farmers.

Long-term measures:

(i) ICAR should develop white fly/helothis resistent varieties of cotton.

(ii) The Government should ensure availability of effective pesticide even if it may require import of some chemicals.

(iii) A Board at National level for regulating the cotton production and marketing may be set up as in the case of tobacco and jute.

(iv) Measures should be taken to increase irrigation facilities in the two districts. The farmer should be educated to diversify the cropping pattern instead of concentrating on cotton. The State Government should take effective measures for checking the supply of spurious pesticides by taking exemplary stern action against delinguent.

Based on the recommendations of the High Powered Committee, RBI has issued necessary instructions to banks for providing relief to cotton growers of the two affected districts *viz.* Guntur and Prakasam. The instructions issued by RBI vide their letter dated 29-6-88 inter-alia provide for the following facilities.

1. The banks as a special case should defer recovery of principal as well as interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years or till the next normal year whichever is earlier.

2. Banks should not charge penal interest nor should they compound the interest on dues postponed.

3. Banks should stop auctioning of gold ornaments pledged with them. Such action be taken as a last resort and that too after obtaining clearance from higher levels.

4. Banks may extend consumption loan facilities upto Rs. 500/- per family.

Agreement with Swiss Government for Secret Assets

1638. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in September last, the Government of India and Switzerland had agreed on the draft of an accord enabling India to secure Swiss help for lifting their bank's secrecy in investigation of certain offences; if so, what steps were taken in this regard in the following months;

(b) whether in November last the Swiss Minister of Justice Ms. Koop said in Washington that the Government of India had yet to ask for any specific information from the Swiss Government if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(c) on which date the names of banks and of the companies holding Swiss accounts and also the account numbers relating to the Bofors pay-off were published; on these clues, whether Government filed an FIR about swindling and fraudu-

lent management of Indian money and ask for specific information from Switzerland; if so, what are the dates and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A team comprising representatives of Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Central Bureau of Investigation and the Reserve Bank of India visited Berne (Switzerland) in September, 1987, to discuss the draft of an agreement of mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Govts. of India and Switzerland.

Government have decided that letters be exchanged between the two Governments. Our Mission in Berne has been suitably advised to make arrangement for the exchange of letters.

Unless the proposed letters are exchanged between the two Govts., it is not feasible for the Govt. of India to approach the Swiss Government for obtaining any information in this regard.

Robbing of passengers by Scooter Rickshaw drivers

1639. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration are aware of the report lodged recently by two students from England who had come to Delhi to study the conditions of the blind, about their having been robbed of their valuables and money by a scooter rickshaw driver whom they hired at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) what system is proposed to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No such incident has been reported to Delhi Police.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Frequent checking of scooter rickshaw drivers's done by Delhi Police especially during odd hours. Police pickets have also been set up at important scooter rickshaw/Taxi stands. Complaints cards are also given to passengers.

Refusal by Delhi Police Officers to testify before Goswamy-Wadhava Committee

1640. SHRI V. NARANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Police Officers refused to give testimony before the Goswamy-Wadhava Committee which is inquiring into the incident that took place at Tis-Hazari court some time back;

(b) what were the main reasons for the police officials refusal to give evidence before the Committee; and

(c) by when the Report of the Goswamy-Wadhava Committee is likely to be submitted to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Four police officers, refused to take the oath and to make a statement regarding the incidents which are the subject matter of inquiry.

(b) Two police officers have filed special leave petitions/writs in the Supreme Court challenging the validity of the procedure adopted by the Committee. The matter is sub-judice.

(c) The extended term of the Committee is upto 22nd August 1988.